Middlebury

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)
Phone: 802.443.5858 E-mail: isss@middlebury.edu
Web: http://www.middlebury.edu/international/isss/

Friends of International Students (FIS) Host Program Newsletter

Summer 2017

A Note from ISSS; Important Dates; Upcoming Events; FIS Story Corner; Reminders

A Note from ISSS

Congratulations to our international seniors who graduated on May 28, 2017! Thankfully, many family members were able to travel to Middlebury to celebrate this special day with their loved one. Thank you for the warm welcome you extended to our international families from around the globe.

We will miss the Class of 2017 as well as our international exchange students who were with us for the academic year. We wish them all the best as they begin new journeys in the United States and around the world. We hope you will remain in touch with your students and perhaps even see them in the future. May they always remember Middlebury as a favorite place and know they are always welcome here.

Important Dates

FIS Host Program

The FIS recruiting and matching process for the Class of 2021 continues. Please contact us if you would like to host a student this fall. ISSS will hold 2 more information meetings this season on the 2nd floor of the Service Building. We ask that new hosts attend a meeting so that we can meet them and share more information about the program. If you are an experienced host, you are welcome to join us as well. Your stories and insights are vital to friends who are new to FIS and trying to decide if they would be a good fit for the program. Please contact us at isss@middlebury.edu or call us at 802.443.5858 if you would like to attend one of the following meetings:

- Tuesday, August 22 from 12:30-1:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 13 from 5:15-6:15 p.m.

Please share this information with friends and family who may be interested and encourage them to attend a meeting to learn more about FIS. You can learn more about FIS on our website at: http://www.middlebury.edu/international/isss/fis.

Fall Term

Our new international students will be on campus for *Early Arrival* orientation beginning on Friday, September 1, 2017. Returning students will join them when the residence halls open on Saturday, September 9 at 9:00 a.m. Fall term classes begin on Monday, September 11 at 8 a.m.

The start of school is an exciting, yet overwhelming time for many international students. It's a great time to reach out and reconnect if you've lost touch over the summer. We look forward to seeing many new faces on campus and in town. Let's give them all a big Middlebury welcome!

Transportation

For those hosts who are welcoming their students back to campus, please remember that host families are not expected to provide transportation to and from the airport. So, if your student mentions a ride, please remind them that there are many options on the Middlebury website at: http://www.middlebury.edu/sustainability/transportation. The rideshare service Lyft has also recently come to our area so that is another option for students. Students can find details and sign up for a ride at their website at https://www.lyft.com/.

Upcoming Local Events

Vergennes Day
Saturday, August 26, 2017
Located in Vergennes City Park, this 36th annual celebration includes food vendors, road races, wagon rides, over 50 crafters and much more!
https://www.addisoncounty.com/vergennes-day

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival
August 24-27, 2017
The third annual festival features another fabulous weekend of films, celebrations, special guests and discussion panels.
https://www.addisoncounty.com/view-all#!/111842-middlebury-new-filmmakers-festival

Bristol Harvest Festival
Saturday, September 23, 2017
Enjoy a day of music, wagon rides, crafts and other activities for all ages.
https://www.addisoncounty.com/bristol-harvest-festival

Find other exhibitions, performances and events in town and at the College by clicking on the following links:

- The College Calendar: http://www.middlebury.edu/events
- Middlebury College Museum of Art: http://museum.middlebury.edu/
- Addison County Chamber of Commerce: https://www.addisoncounty.com/
- Burlington happenings: http://www.sevendaysvt.com/
- Addison County Independent: http://addisonindependent.com/

FIS Story Corner

Enjoy these stories and pictures from this past year. Thank you to our hosts for sharing these special moments with all of us.

Host Sas Carey enjoyed a picnic with her student Fatmata Bah ’20 at Kingsland Bay in July.

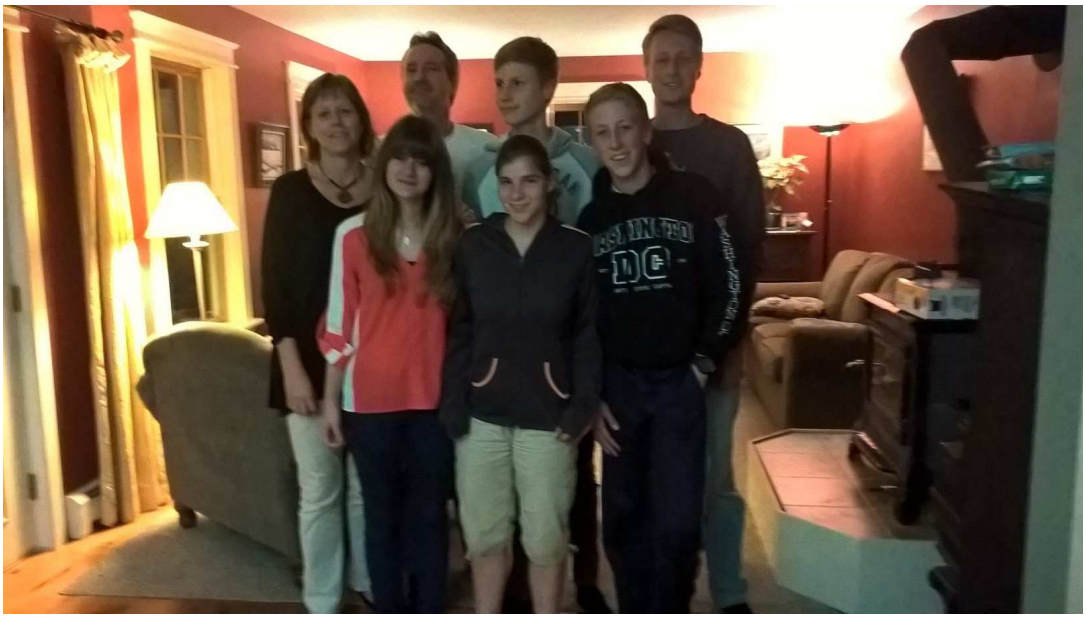
Sara Kljajic ’20 celebrated her 21st birthday with her hosts Gerry Slager and Janet Chill as well as a handful of friends. Pictured left to right are Karina Zyatitsky ’20, Stephanie Jordan ’20, Petar Gardian ’20, Sara Kljajic ’20, Fatmata Bah ’20, Janet and Gerry.

Hosts David and Lisa Pistilli enjoyed a lovely meal this spring with their host student, Waleed Helweh ’17 and his family who visited for Commencement. Pictured left to right are Salma (Waleed’s cousin), Waleed, Lisa Pistilli and Samira (Waleed’s mother).

In May, ISSS Administrative Coordinator Carolyn Dahm (center) enjoyed a “farewell for the summer” evening with her student Sarah Edwards ’20 (left) and friend Hollie Haigh ’19 (right).

A happy graduate, Joy Wood ’17 (left) shared Commencement with her host Brenda Ellis (right).

ISSS Advisor Joani Taylor (center) with daughter Nina Masliah as they celebrate their family's host student Jinseul Jun '17. After four years of a great friendship, Joani was happy to finally meet Jin's parents at Commencement and share with them in person how much she and her family have enjoyed having Jin in their life.



Hosts Dave and Joani Praamsma (back row, left) enjoyed an evening with their children and student Maggie Nazar '17 (front row, left).

Hosts Cy (right) and T Tall had the wonderful opportunity to catch up with their former host student Seda Savas-Stein ’05 (left) and her baby Olie at the Udvar-Hazy Center, annex to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Virginia last spring.

Host Carolyn Spooner (left) shared this year’s Commencement festivities with the parents of her student Hamza Alsarhan ’17.

Miguel Castillo Le Maitre ’17 (left) and his Grandmother were all smiles during a graduation celebration at the home of his host parents, Gail Borden and Jeff Cason.

Pictured left to right are Mzwakithi Shongwe ’16, Lorrie Muller (host Grandma), Mohamed Hussein ’17, Lyn DeGraff (host Mom) and Javier del Cid ’18 celebrating Mohamed’s commencement, May 2017.

Reminders

Host Information Changes

Please keep us posted about any address/phone/email changes so we can keep our records up-to-date. We don't want you to miss out on any important FIS happenings! Send any updates to isss@middlebury.edu (subject line: FIS Host Program)

Enjoy the rest of your summer, we'll see you in the fall!

Kathy Foley, Associate Dean and Director of ISSS
Joani Taylor, International Student and Scholar Advisor
Kas Singh, International Student and Scholar Advisor
Alex Brauer, SEVIS and International Services Specialist
Carolyn Dahm, Administrative Coordinator